

What's New From The Bureau of Child Care

A. Message from the Child Care Administrator Michelle Thomas

CareFinderIndiana

www.childcarefinder.IN.gov



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Summertime can be stressful for everyone. Older children are out of school and need more child care services. Parents look for quality places for their school agers, and child care providers ramp up their businesses to accommodate the extra need in their community. This summer has been particularly stressful for some families and providers because of the weather related disasters that occurred in many of our Indiana counties.

A huge thank you goes out to the BCC staff who dropped everything to determine the status of child care in the state, and to provide assistance wherever possible. Within 48 hours of the disasters, The Bureau of Child Care made contact with every single licensed center, licensed home, and unlicensed ministry in 41 counties to determine if damage had been sustained. For the approximately 50 providers who did sustain significant damage or limitations to their operations, we offered onsite technical assistance to help establish a safe, temporary place to operate.

Child care providers overwhelmingly demonstrated their resilience and resolve to get back up and running as soon as possible so that parents could return to work, and their children would have a safe place to go.

This crisis is over for most of our child care providers and families and life has gone back to normal for most of us. But let us not forget those who continue to struggle to put their lives, their families, their businesses, and their homes back together again.



B. Quality Development – Janet Deahl

Participation in Paths to QUALITY Growing

Paths to QUALITY is a **free and voluntary** new program designed to help child care providers learn new ways to improve the quality of their care and to validate programs and providers for ongoing efforts to achieve higher standards of quality. BCC has established an overall provider participation goal for Paths to QUALITY that within one year of the program's availability in a region that 60% of the Licensed Centers, 35% of the Licensed Homes and 5% of the Unlicensed/Registered Ministries in the region will have enrolled and have a rating assigned. So far our latest data indicates that we are well on the way to meeting this goal. Since 1/1/08, 754 child care providers have attended an Introduction Session to find out more about Paths to QUALITY and 513 providers are now enrolled in the system. To find out more about Paths to QUALITY and check when the program will be available in your county, go to www.childcarefinder.in.gov or call 800-299-1627.

C. Licensed Child Care Centers – Lisa Clifford

Day Care Center Transportation Information

Effective July 1, 2001, Indiana Code 12-17.2-2-1(d) required that day care centers must transport children in a “**special purpose bus**”, or a school bus. However, they may also transport children using a public transportation system if the bus is designed to carry at least 30 passengers.

“Special Purpose Bus”(defined):

Indiana Code 20-27-3-5 defines a “special purpose bus” as any motor vehicle designed and constructed:

1. For the accommodation of more than ten passengers;
2. That meets the federal school bus safety requirements under 49 U.S.C.30125 except:
 - a. The stop signal arm is prohibited
 - b. Flashing red and amber lamps are prohibited.

NOTE – IC 9-21-12-13 provides that a bus not being used to transport school children shall:

Remove the flashing lights

Remove the stop arm

Paint the bus any color but national standard school bus chrome yellow.

Day Care Centers (responsibilities):

If a day care center owns, or uses, a vehicle that meets the definition of a “**Special Purpose Bus**”, or a school bus, it is their responsibility to have that vehicle inspected **prior** to transporting children. In addition, anytime a day care center purchases a new “**Special Purpose Bus**” for the purpose of transporting children, they must notify the Commercial Vehicle Enforcement Division and present the bus for inspection prior to using it.

Day Care centers must now use a “**Special Purpose Bus**”, or a school bus, as of **June 30, 2006** for the transportation of children.

Inspection Criteria:

There are six main items of inspection for a “Special Purpose Bus”:

Brake Components

Steering Components

Suspension Components

Exhaust Systems

Tires

Lights (headlights, taillights, turn signals, brake lamps, and marker lights)

The general condition of the bus is also checked. Upon satisfactorily meeting all inspection criteria, a certificate is issued to the bus.

D. Unlicensed Registered Ministry - Ken Hudson

VCP Standards

Unlicensed Registered Child Care Ministry providers; are you looking for assistance with meeting Voluntary Certification Program standards or for additional information about how to meet Level 1 Paths to QUALITY? The Bureau of Child Care funds many technical assistance initiatives that may be of help to providers. These services are free to you!

☐ **BCC Ministry Inspector - 1-877/511-1144**

- o First point of contact with questions
- o VCP Checklist Review
- o VCP Guidelines Explanation
- o VCP Certification Inspection
- o Referral to Resources for Assistance Obtaining VCP Certification

☐ **BCC Health Consultant - 1-877/511-1144**

- o Food and Nutrition Training
- o Menu Writing
- o Sample Health/Sanitation Policies and Procedures
 - ☐ Staff Orientation
 - ☐ Infant/Toddler Feeding Plans
 - ☐ Training Needs Involving Sanitation and Health
 - ☐ Other Sanitation and Health Issues/Questions

☐ **Local Child Care Resource and Referral Agency- 1-800/299-1627**

- o Safe Sleep Training
- o Inclusion Training
- o Infant and Toddler trainings
- o Various other child care trainings

☐ **Indiana Association for the Education of Young Children (IAEYC)-1-800/657-7577**

- o TEACH Scholarships
- o Information on obtaining Child Development Associate credential -Formal/Informal/On-line

☐ **BCC Child Care Finder Website - www.childcarefinder.in.gov**

- o Indiana Child Care laws, Rules, Policies
- o Examples of Child Care Related Operating Procedures
- o Child Care Forms and Sample Health and Safety Policies
- o General Child Care Information

☐ **BCC Child Care Ministry Central Office - 1-877/511-1144**

- Questions and/or issues not addressed by the local R&R, IAEYC, the BCC Health Consultant, and/or the BCC Ministry Inspector

Email contact kenneth.hudson@fssa.in.gov



E. CCDF Program - Linda Kolbus

Thinking of moving?

You are a CCDF provider and thinking of moving? Below are some procedures to follow so that you can avoid a disruption in payment after you have moved.

1. Contact your CCDF Policy Consultant to assist with the transition of your current vouchers. Current vouchers need to be placed in a pending status. To find out who your CCDF Policy Consultant is go to: <https://secure.in.gov/apps/fssa/carefinder/contact.html>
2. Submit a "Provider Information Page" to the Intake Office for all children currently participating in the voucher program. Indicate the change is due to a move. Reflect the new address and license number on the form.
3. Move your POS device to your new facility. DO NOT complete any transactions until you have received confirmation of your requested voucher change.
4. Contact ACS at 800-422-0850 (ID#1234 and password #123456) to request technical assistance in re-programming your POS device to recognize your new license.

Cardholders may now check-in and check-out.

F. Licensed Child Care Homes - Debbie Sampson

Reminder of pool regulations to keep children safe

Hope everyone is enjoying their summer. Hot weather means lots of pool time. Here are a few quick reminders of the pool regulations to help keep children safe during this time:

- A caregiver must be physically present at the swimming pool to supervise when the children in care are swimming.
- At least one additional staff must be available to supervise any children not swimming.
- All pools must be surrounded by a fence and secured by a gate with a lock (key or combination) to prevent the children from entering the pool area unsupervised.
- Make sure there isn't a gap in the fence that a child could squeeze through.
- If the pool is in the fenced in play yard, make sure that the pool has its own fence around it to keep children from accessing it unsupervised.
- Non-filtered wading pools are not allowed according to State Department of Health regulations.
- Make sure that someone on site has current training in CPR.

Below are some safety tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics to protect children from drowning:

- Children in the water shall be supervised at all times.
- Never allow running or pushing in pool areas.
- Do not allow children to chew gum or eat while swimming.
- Never swim during thunder or lightning.

G. IDEM offers 5-Star Environmental Recognition Program for Child Care Facilities

For the past 10 years, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has offered the Five Star Environmental Recognition for Child Care Facilities program. Since the program began, awards have been given to over 100 child care facilities reaching an estimated 2,550 children. The program recognizes child care facilities that go above and beyond requirements and demonstrate environmental stewardship. Facilities earn one, three or five stars based on recognized standards and voluntary measures. IDEM assists facilities in implementing the plans and conducts site visits before granting facilities membership.

"We have already saved money monthly on lower trash hauling and supplies thanks to the five star review of our facility," said Nancy Caenepeel, manager of Kare Bear Learning Center. "I strongly recommend other child care facilities to consider contacting IDEM to learn how to become involved in the five star program."

Applicants are evaluated based on their efforts to reduce children's exposure to mercury, mold, asbestos, radon, pesticides, carbon monoxide, lead and PCBs. In addition, many of the facilities have started recycling programs, developed formal written plans for chemical management, made efforts to purchase items made with recycled content material, and reduced energy usage. Applicants must also address issues such as the cleaning and maintenance of their facility, proper employee training, energy efficiency, indoor and outdoor air quality, vehicle idling, recycling and environmental education.

The most recent childcare facilities achieving exceptional status in the five star program include Civitan Children's Center, Vincennes; Kare Bear Learning Center, Osceola; Kendallville Day Care Center - two facilities, Kendallville; Charlotte R. Riley Child Center at Purdue University Calumet, Hammond; Bloomington Developmental Learning Center, Bloomington; Victory Learning Center, Fort Wayne; and Toyota Children's Center, Princeton.

Grants are available for Five Star child care facilities which can help reduce the cost of installing items made of recycled materials such as playground equipment, picnic tables, carpet, fences, benches and more. The state will fund up to \$5,000 (subject to eligibility). A 25 percent cash match is required. Members are eligible to receive grant funding under this grant once every two years.

Additional information about the Five Star child care program or grant opportunities can be obtained by calling Karen Teliha, Community Environmental Health & Education coordinator, at (800) 988-7901 or by visiting <http://www.idem.IN.gov>.

Reusable dishes

We took pictures of our garbage bags one day after lunch before we used reusable dishes and then we took a picture of our garbage bags after we started using reusable dishes.

Before



After



What a difference it would make if we all stopped using disposable plates, water bottles, etc...